The grade level that I have chosen for the context statement is high school. I went to school in Hanover High School in Hanover, Massachusetts. It wasn’t a perfect school, but it was much better than anything in Savage Inequalities, or the South Side of Chicago. At my school you could walk outside and breathe fresh air. In Savage Inequalities, the air is polluted and toxic from the factories. At Hanover, you could run in the woods peacefully along the cross country trail. It wasn’t the toxic and lead ridden soil in North Lawndale. At Hanover, the kids are a priority whether it be our safety or education. Unfortunately at North Lawndale and many other schools the children are barely given a second thought and cast aside like their futures do not matter. I used to really not appreciate my towns school system, in fact I hated it. But after being exposed to these stories I have a newfound appreciation.

Gang violence is a major issue in the South side of Chicago. Most of the people that are buried are 18 to 30 years old, in the prime of their life. In Hanover the only deaths you heard were on the news or occasionally a grandparent would die. It puts things into perspective because I could not imagine losing a class mate so often. The school was a brand new building when I was a tiny freshman in high school. It was all state of the art technology and we had the best of everything. In the book, there are hardly any school supplies. Even the American flag in the building is torn to shreds. The teachers there are not paid enough to care even though many still do. Parents just want their kids to graduate the eighth grade, it isn’t about learning. At Hanover we had teachers who wanted to be there and were qualified to teach us not only about their subject matter but also about life. Reading Savage Inequalities really shows the problems with the American school system, and the inequality of it. We’re in the same country. How could I have been so well off while all these kids were an afterthought?